NEW QUARTERLY REPORT FROM UNESCO CARIBBEAN

There are five United Nations Country Theme Groups (UNTGs) on HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean region. Regrettably my Office cannot be physically represented at each meeting of each Theme Group. This new Quarterly Report is the substitute for our physical presence. It will be distributed in February, May, August and November of each year. In addition, UNESCO hosted the first regional meeting on Education & HIV/AIDS in July 2002 at Strawberry Hill, Jamaica, and will invite colleagues to a second such meeting in May 2003 (see page 2).

I would appreciate not only comments on this new Quarterly Report, but stand ready to include information from other Theme Group members in future issues. The deadline for the receipt of material for the May 2003 edition will be April 25. Such material should be emailed to me, h.gosselin@unesco.org, and copied to the editor Ms. Olatz Landa, o.landa@unesco.org. The consultant currently responsible for the education programme, who has taken lead role in developing our Education & HIV/AIDS response, is Mr. Michael Morrissey, m.morrissey@unesco.org.

I look forward to briefing you in person on our programme in this most crucial area at the meeting I will host in May 2003.

Hélène-Marie Gosselin
Director, UNESCO Office for the Caribbean

February 28, 2003

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UNESCO’s RESPONSE & ROLE

The UNESCO Office for the Caribbean is accredited to all of the English-speaking countries of the region, the Netherlands Antilles, Suriname, and provides support to Haiti in the area of Education. UNESCO’s education programme is one of five delivered by this organisation to the Caribbean – the other programmes are in the fields of Science, Culture, Communication and Social Sciences.

UNESCO has given highest priority in its medium-term (2002-2007) education programme for the Caribbean to building the capacity of the education sector of the region to respond effectively to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Our education strategy was disseminated to all Ministers and UN organisations in the Caribbean in January 2003 – we can send you the document electronically if you did not receive it. Responding to HIV/AIDS is one of the nine priority Education strategies that we will focus upon for these six years.

Not only does the epidemic have serious demographic, social, economic and health implications for the region, it will also make the accomplishment of Education for All goals (EFA) in the region more difficult. Moreover, the epidemic has the potential to reverse the positive trends and accomplishments of the Caribbean in educational advances over the last few decades. Efforts for EFA accomplishment and HIV/AIDS mitigation and prevention therefore go hand in hand.

2nd CARIBBEAN MEETING ON EDUCATION & HIV/AIDS, MAY 2003

The UNESCO Office for the Caribbean hosted the first regional meeting on Education & HIV/AIDS for United Nations colleagues at Strawberry Hill, Irish Town, in July 2002. A copy of the report of the meeting and a summary review of UN activities in the Caribbean in the field of Education & HIV/AIDS is available from o.landa@unesco.org
A second regional meeting will be hosted in May 2003, to provide an opportunity for UN colleagues, international partners and the CARICOM Secretariat to brief each other on progress in this field over the previous year and seek ways to maximize cooperation and coordination. Information on the date, venue and programme for this meeting will be communicated in March, and it will be timed to provide a briefing by the CARICOM/UNESCO/IDB Education & HIV/AIDS technical assistance programme design mission that is expected to be mobilized by early April.

At this May 2003 meeting, participants will also discuss mechanisms for enhanced coordination in the field of Education & HIV/AIDS, such as more frequent face-to-face meetings or meetings by teleconference.

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REPORTING UNESCO’s ACTIVITIES SINCE JULY 2003

The UNESCO Office for the Caribbean hosted a regional meeting on Education & HIV/AIDS on July 10, 2002, at Strawberry Hill, Jamaica, to launch our effort in this field. This consultation was organized to further UNESCO’s mandate to support countries of the Caribbean cluster to accomplish Education for All (EFA) by 2015 and to mobilize the education sector in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The eight UN agencies present confirmed the urgency for governments in the Caribbean region to increase the role played by the education sector in the effort to contain the epidemic and mitigate its effects. There was strong consensus that there was insufficient capacity generally in education sectors of the Caribbean countries to respond. As a result, UNESCO determined that one of its key focuses in 2002-03 would be to seek ways to mobilize the national education sector in all countries in the region to fight the epidemic and address its consequences.

The summary report that follows outlines the actions that UNESCO has taken to respond to this urgent need. The Report covers UNESCO’s effort since July 2003 in:

- Advocacy with leading regional institutions and the establishment of partnerships for future action
- Capacity Building
- Fund raising for a major response across the Caribbean.
UNESCO is prepared to share documentation on any of its initiatives with UN colleagues and international partners. Requests for specific documentation should be addressed to the Director, h.gosselin@unesco.org.

ADVOCACY & PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

UNESCO has been active in advocating an enhanced response of the education sector to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Key results have been:

**Havana Commitment, November 2002.** Sixteen Ministers of Education endorsed the need for an enhanced response by their sector at a meeting in Cuba that included presentations by the Hon. Hazel Manning of Trinidad & Tobago, Professor Michael Kelly of Zambia, and Professor Ronald Young, Special Envoy of the Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies. The text of the Declaration is given on page 9 of this Report.

**Partnership with the CARICOM Secretariat.** Through dialogue with the Secretary General of CARICOM, Dr Edwin Carrington, and other senior CARICOM officials since September 2002, UNESCO has entered a partnership agreement in the field of Education & HIV/AIDS. The partnership will be cemented on May 5, 2003, when the Director General of UNESCO, Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, meets with Secretary General. Through CARICOM, UNESCO is also partnered with PANCAP, the Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS.

**Partnership with the University of the West Indies.** UNESCO has also joined forces with UWI to work together in delivering services to the countries of the region in the field of Education & HIV/AIDS. Cooperation will be in research, technical assistance and training. UNESCO is also committed to capacity building for UWI and other regional universities in this field, closely coordinated with capacity building in response to HIV/AIDS being provided more generally through the CARICOM-European Union Capacity Building programme. UNESCO’s Caribbean Director signed a Memorandum of Understanding in this field with the Vice Chancellor of UWI, Professor Rex Nettleford, on January 17, 2003, for a period of six years.

**Development of a Strategic Framework.** The UNESCO Office for the Caribbean jointly with the International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) has commissioned research that will result in the publication in mid-2003 of a strategic framework for Caribbean education sector’s response. Taking the lead in the development of the strategy is Michael Kelly of the University of Zambia, one of the leading thinkers in this field in sub-Saharan Africa. In preparatory work, Michael Kelly is partnered with UWI’s Vice Chancellor, Rex Nettleford, who will endorse the strategy through his Foreword, and UWI’s lead professor in that institution’s response to the epidemic, Brendan Bain, who has collaborated closely with Michael Kelly. IIEP’s Director, Gudmund Hernes, will contribute an Afterword to the book. UNESCO plans to distribute this publication to all Ministries of Education and
partner international and donor agencies in the region by the final Quarter of 2003. Michael Kelly’s earlier paper on *The AIDS epidemic: Why must the Education Sector respond?* that was delivered on all campuses of the University of the West Indies in early 2002 is available at [http://www.uwicentre.edu.jm/lecture](http://www.uwicentre.edu.jm/lecture).

First Caribbean Conference on Education & HIV/AIDS. UNESCO is planning to co-host with the Caribbean Association of Universities and Research Institutes (UNICA) and the St Augustine Campus of UWI, the first Caribbean Conference on Education and HIV/AIDS, October 29-31, 2003. The Conference will bring together Presidents of more than a dozen Caribbean Universities and several Ministers of Education. International and Caribbean leaders in the field of Education & HIV/AIDS will jointly dialogue with academic and government leaders on priority actions for Universities and countries.

Partnership with IDB. UNESCO’s advocacy of the need for a major response of the education sector to HIV/AIDS has resulted in cooperation with the Inter American Development Bank (IDB), a major investor in the development of the education sector in several countries of the Caribbean region. UNESCO, CARICOM and IDB are cooperating in financing and mounting a Joint Programme Identification Project (JPIS) mission in March-May 2003, to define a Technical Cooperation Project for the Caribbean Community in the field of Education & HIV/AIDS. Dialogue with UN and other development partners will be one of the activities of this mission. IDB has begun the process of seeking financing for the follow-on Technical Cooperation project in this field, and it is anticipated that this will be on stream by the fourth Quarter of 2003. The programme envisaged will ensure a comprehensive, integrated, accelerated, and coordinated approach to addressing the current weaknesses in education sectors’ responsiveness to HIV/AIDS.

CAPACITY BUILDING

UNESCO has begun to contribute to capacity building through a number of initiatives, and results will be evident by mid-2003. These are the highlights.

Major capacity building programme development. As reported above, UNESCO, CARICOM and IDB will jointly begin a region-wide situation analysis and capacity building design effort from March 2003. It is anticipated that multi-million financing will be necessary to undertake the capacity building over several years, and the Technical Cooperation project will assist Caribbean countries to identify the required resources.

Bridging programme planned for 2003-2004. In order to kick-start capacity building from the beginning of 2004 - ahead of multimillion financing - the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean will has made a submission to UNAIDS for
bridging financing, and anticipates a positive response. Areas of capacity building that should begin in January 2004 with UNESCO/UNAIDS funds will be:

- Advocacy for education sector responsiveness
- Customising HIV/AIDS messages for the Caribbean
- Reducing risk behaviour and vulnerability through Education
- Caring for Education’s Infected and Affected
- Building the capacity of Education professionals to respond to the epidemic
- Building capacity for coordination and monitoring Education Sector investment

UNESCO would wish to collaborate with other UN members and international partners in operationalising this capacity building programme, and the regional meeting planned for May (see page 2) will provide an opportunity for such discussions. Details of UNESCO’s submission for UNAIDS funding of this programme are available from our Kingston office.

Piloting literacy materials to promote HIV/AIDS prevention for Youth at Risk. In 2002, the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean commissioned manuscripts for three workbooks targeted at prisoners and youth in urban communities with low literacy skills. The books that will result will combine the development of literacy with life skills related to HIV/AIDS prevention, drug prevention and self-esteem. Morton Publishing of Trinidad & Tobago was identified through CAPNET, the Caribbean Publishers’ Network, to publish the three workbooks for UNESCO. Sets of books for piloting will be distributed to all countries of the region by September 2003.

Exploring the need for an HIV/AIDS response at the ECCE level. The Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) in cooperation with the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean will, in 2003, explore issues of HIV/AIDS in respect of early childhood care and education (ECCE) in a pilot study in St James, Jamaica. It is anticipated that the findings of this pilot will contribute to analyses of the Technical Cooperation project (see above).

Developing Education & HIV/AIDS indicators. The UNESCO Office for the Caribbean has been supporting all 20 countries of its cluster, in partnership with the UNESCO Institute of Statistics, UIS, in improving education statistics capacity. On the agenda of the annual regional workshop for statisticians, to be held this year in Grenada in April, will be a preliminary discussion on the development of indicators that relate the HIV/AIDS epidemic to the education sector.

Incorporating an HIV/AIDS response in EFA Planning. Another major focus of our education programme in 2003 is support for all countries of the region in planning for EFA accomplishment by 2015 or earlier. There will be a workshop for senior planners of twelve countries of the region in May in Barbados. Planners will be introduced in this workshop, and through follow on activities throughout the region for the rest of the year, on how to integrate responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic into forward planning for the education sector.
Training for publishers and authors for HIV/AIDS textbooks. No life skills, science, social studies, health & family life education (HFLE) or literature textbook has yet been published for the Caribbean that specifically includes HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation material. The UNESCO-supported Caribbean Publishers’ Network, CAPNET, prioritized addressing this in its 2003 work plan. As a first step, CAPNET, in association with the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean and UNESCO’s Institute for Education (IBE) in Geneva, will organise a workshop on publishing in response to HIV/AIDS. Further details of the workshop will be available from CAPNET (capnet@colis.com) in March.

Piloting Global Readiness Survey. The UNESCO Office for the Caribbean contributed in February 2003 to the development of the Education Sector Global HIV/AIDS Readiness Assessment Survey through piloting the draft instrument with the Ministry of Education, Youth & Culture in Jamaica. The Health Economics & HIV/AIDS Research Division (HEARD) of the University of Natal, South Africa, is organizing the survey. It will lead to a Global Research Report on the comparative readiness of country education sectors to manage the impact of HIV/AIDS. HEARD at the University of Natal in South Africa is undertaking this project on behalf of the UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) in order to better direct development and donor agency support for affected and vulnerable countries. The process is also intended to help individual education ministries assess their own preparedness to respond to the challenge of HIV/AIDS and identify areas of concern or vulnerability. The study and the subsequent Global Readiness Report will be directed at the 100 countries considered most at risk from this pandemic. Information on Caribbean participation in this Global Study will be included in the next Education & HIV/AIDS Report in May 2003.

Planning assistance to Jamaica, Suriname and Guyana. The UNESCO Office for the Caribbean is currently developing bilateral HRD projects for three countries of the cluster. These projects will contribute to the effort of these countries to accomplish EFA goals and combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The next issue of the Education & HIV/AIDS Report will outline the focus and level of these projects.

FUND RAISING

UNESCO has been active in fundraising since July 2002, to provide resources for planning and implementing the necessary responses. To date, the following have been accomplished.

- The Joint Programme Identification Study (JPIS) reported above will be jointly financed by UNESCO (including Nordic Funds-in-Trust that support EFA accomplishment), the CARICOM Secretariat (with EU funds for capacity building and policy advocacy), and IDB.

- Financing of the follow-on Technical Cooperation project is currently being negotiated but it is anticipated to include UNESCO (including UNAIDS funds),
IDB (including Japanese Special Funds), CARICOM (including EU funds), and other donors.

- Financing of the initial capacity building programme to begin in January 2004 will be funded through UNESCO’s regular budget and extra-budgetary funds from UNAIDS in the area of US$0.5 million.

- Financing of the major capacity building programme anticipated to begin in mid 2004 will be explored and negotiated through the Technical Cooperation project that will commence in the 3rd Quarter of 2003. A mix of donor, Global Fund, UN, and lending agency resources is anticipated.


- The UNESCO Office of the Caribbean has actively sought financing from the UNESCO Education Institutes in support of its Education & HIV/AIDS programme, including IIEP and IBE as reported above.

**UNESCO’s EDUCATION INSTITUTES & HIV/AIDS RESOURCES**

Global HIV/AIDS Impact on Education Clearinghouse

The **Global HIV/AIDS Impact on Education Clearinghouse** is a mechanism for sharing information, coordinated by the International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) in collaboration with ministries of education, NGOs, researchers and co-operation agencies. This initiative will focus on collecting, analysing and disseminating information on education for the prevention and mitigation of HIV/AIDS at the school level (primary, secondary and teacher education). Of priority interest will be official curriculum documents from around the world (plans, framework, teaching materials). A databank of curriculum materials and processes will form an integral part of the web site.

To facilitate searching the database:

- Its design enables search by title, author or agency
- Key word descriptors provide concise terms to help refine queries
- The ‘meetings’ button leads to documentation from specific conferences

The International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP/UNESCO) HIV/AIDS Impact on Education Clearinghouse website is available for consultation at [http://www.unesco.org/iiep](http://www.unesco.org/iiep). To visit, go to IIEP’s homepage and click on the Clearinghouse link on the right-hand side.
International Clearinghouse on HIV/AIDS and Education

UNESCO’s International Bureau of Education (IBE) has established a global data bank on curriculum processes and practice in education for the prevention and mitigation of HIV/AIDS, the International Clearinghouse on HIV/AIDS Education. The web site focuses on documenting and analysis of curriculum products and processes related to HIV/AIDS prevention education at primary and secondary levels, with emphasis on official curricula. The clearinghouse is part of UNESCO’s effort to combat the epidemic through preventive education within the framework of follow-up to the Dakar Forum 2000. The database is being developed in collaboration with other UNESCO units and offices, UNAIDS co-sponsors, and numerous other international and national institutions around the world.

The fundamental service of the clearinghouse is a web site featuring a range of curriculum-related materials, documentation and information on HIV/AIDS education at primary and secondary levels of schooling. As far as possible, effort is being made to disseminate pertinent materials online or make links to existing digital publications. The Global Content Bank facility is directed at education specialists and other professionals working in the area of curriculum design, implementation and evaluation for the prevention and mitigation of HIV/AIDS at national, regional and international levels.

Materials included in the Global Content Bank are:

- Policy documents related to HIV/AIDS education
- Curriculum documents (frameworks, plans, syllabi) for use in schools and teacher training institutes
- Teaching materials and teaching aids, including a range of media formats
- Studies and research related to the planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV/AIDS education
- Conference proceedings
- Descriptions/case studies of good practice in HIV/AIDS education
- Web links to relevant sites -institutions, databases, conferences.

IBE welcomes feedback on the Global Content Bank facility and web site. It also wishes submissions of curriculum-related materials in English, French, Spanish or Portuguese of relevance to the clearinghouse service.
THE HAVANA COMMITMENT

Havana Commitment of Caribbean Ministers of Education

We, Ministers of Education in the Caribbean, in the context of the Regional Meeting of Ministers of Education of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINEDLAC), November 14-16, 2002, recognizing the potential of HIV/AIDS to deplete the human resources needed for sustainable development in the Caribbean, reassert the determination of our Governments to fight the epidemic.

We recognise that Education is integral to the fight against AIDS, and that the disease will not be overcome without the full involvement of the education sector.

We further recognise the need to work in close harmony with other sectors in our countries, and for a regional approach in the framework of the Pan Caribbean Partnership Against Aids.

In this light
• We acknowledge that more could be done through the education of teachers and students to prevent the spread of HIV
• We affirm that there is need to provide support and care to affected educators and learners
• We recognize that creative measures are needed to reduce the impact of the epidemic on our education sectors.

Moved by these and similar considerations, we request UNESCO to assist the Pan Caribbean Partnership Against Aids to establish a regional forum on HIV/AIDS and Education.

We commit ourselves and our Ministries of Education to a heightened and concerted response to HIV/AIDS, beginning from this moment and continuing until, through education and other means, we have entered a world without AIDS.

Havana, CUBA
November 15, 2002


The Hon. Rudolph Greenidge, Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, BARBADOS

The Hon. Andrew Fahie, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Hon. Roy Bodden, Minister of Education, Human Resources and Culture, CAYMAN ISLANDS

The Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit, Minister of Education, Sports and Youth Affairs, DOMINICA

The Hon. Augustine John, Minister of Education, GRENADA

The Hon. Dr. Henry Jeffrey, Minister of Education, GUYANA

Mme. Myrto Célestin Saurel, Ministre de l’Education Nationale, HAITI
NEW UNESCO PUBLICATIONS FOR EDUCATION & HIV/AIDS

UNESCO Strategy for HIV/AIDS Preventive Education

UNESCO’s 2002 strategy paper provides a framework for global action in the area of HIV/AIDS. The strategy is focused on preventive education in the broadest sense, including advocacy at all levels, customizing the message, changing risk behaviour, caring for the infected and the affected, coping with the institutional impact of the epidemic, as well as information sharing and capacity building to achieve these tasks. Through a holistic approach based on its interdisciplinary experience, UNESCO seeks to play a key role in these areas over the coming years.

This document is available at http://www.unesco.org/iiep/english/whnew/strategy.pdf


The project on A Cultural Approach to HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care aims to stimulate reflection and action for better application of “a cultural approach” in strategies, policies, projects and fieldwork. The handbook on Fieldwork: Building Local Response shown below is one of a series of four methodological documents. The others are:

- Appropriate Information/Education/Communication
- A Cultural approach to strategy and policy building
- Culturally sensitive project design and implementation

Each handbook deals with two major topics. First there is a general explanation of the cultural approach to HIV/AIDS in relation to risk itself, situations of vulnerability and appropriate prevention, support
and impact reduction. Secondly there are specific sections focusing on level of action to be considered, strategy and policy, project design and field work. These are intended to assess the current situation and to propose innovative methods and tools.

All four handbooks are available at [http://portal.unesco.org/aids](http://portal.unesco.org/aids) in pdf format.

The purpose of this report is to share information on the efforts of the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean in the response to HIV/AIDS epidemic in the region. It is not an official document of the organisation. To add or remove your name from the report’s distribution list, please contact o.landa@unesco.org. If any content of this report is used in other report or publication acknowledgement of the source should be given.